

NH SART News

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Grafton County

Littleton Area SART: (1) Worked hard on outreach to increase SANE involvement with the team and support nurses at the hospitals. The result is noticeable improvements to victims in Grafton & Coos Counties. (2) SART involvement allowed team members to participate in several trainings to increase their knowledge & skill levels to respond to victims. (3) Thorough and informative case reviews provided opportunities to learn, identify areas to improve and take steps to do so. (4) Made connections with NH Human Trafficking Task Force to improve response to victims.

Plymouth Area SART: (1) Strong collaborations enabled productive virtual victim meetings when courts were closed. (2) During the pandemic, no momentum lost to efforts on behalf of victims by staying connected at regular meetings. (3) A case review identified the need for SART members to learn more about the role of BEAS and an in-meeting training was arranged. (4) The SART Summit provided professional development opportunities to assist victims moving forward.

Upper Valley SART: (1) Strong collaborations with Veteran Affairs on services for area veteran sexual assault victims. (2) Discussions brought awareness of SART members' challenges & increased resource sharing. (3) Training opportunities on human trafficking & strangulation were very helpful to team members.

Sullivan County

(1) Continuing to hold SART meetings to stay connected & engage in helpful conversations. (2) Professional collaborations assisted in sharing resources with victims. (3) Strong communication among the team translated to better responses to victims. (4) Productive case reviews with respectful discussions, based on trust, identify areas to improve victim responses.

Cheshire County

(1) SART member support letters sent to Cheshire Medical Center leadership outlining the importance and value of a robust SANE program were helpful for our local nurses in solidifying their work within the SANE program and SART membership. (2) Improvements to tracking and preservation of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits. (3) Conversations about coercion and sexual assault, what coercion can look like and challenges for law enforcement and prosecution, allowing for a stronger response when victims report.

NH SARTs are proud to share their work to improve the response to adult victims of sexual violence!



Carroll County

(1) Continued to meet virtually during the pandemic. (2) Presentations increased team members' knowledge on subjects including victim trauma response, NH Human Trafficking Task Force, and technology in cases.

Strafford County

(1) The Strafford County Attorney presented several virtual trainings on sexual assault prosecution and SANE and gave two in-person trainings. (2) Members of the SART, through the County Attorney's Victim Assistance Program, provided input into HB 1105 to limit the amount of earned time credit an inmate can claim under "other programs." (3) Four members of the SART provided input to the NH Supreme Court Domestic Violence Task Force. (4) Every month, SART adult sexual assault cases are reviewed and discussed. During the pandemic, remote case reviews were well-attended.

“SART collaboration and resource sharing is helpful to members and victims.”

Belknap County

(1) In-service trainings on various topics have been helpful. (2) Case review discussions had more engagement and resulted in respectful conversations with positive outcomes. (3) Increase in number of adult interviews at the CAC. (4) Increase in trauma informed responses and partner communication on hard conversations.

Merrimack County

(1) Implementation of case review recommendations in confinement settings has provided support for investigators and assisted the facility during federal audits. (2) Development of a training curriculum to reach professionals will help address needs throughout the county. (3) Constructive case review discussions have been supportive to all SART members. (4) There has been no loss of victim services during the pandemic. (5) Team collaborations have resulted in positive outcomes in court.

Rockingham County

(1) Outreach efforts by several SART members to their elected officials had a significant impact on the outcome of proposed legislation that would have negatively affected sexual assault victims. (2) SART members adapted to COVID restrictions and continued to meet regularly to address challenges with sexual assault cases. (3) In-meeting training opportunities were helpful in educating SART members on topics like interviewing adult victims, technology as evidence and victim services. SART members also presented trainings in the county on Adult Victim Interviewing and a DV/Strangulation case review. (4) Case review discussions result in the identification of areas to improve victim response and many of these recommendations are put into practice.

Hillsborough County - North

(1) The team has consistently met throughout the pandemic as members are passionate about their work and are strong collaborative partners. (2) Having twelfth question about sexual assault added to the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) tool improves the response to victims. (3) Being able to share resources like the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Booklet has helped when working with victims. (4) Participation in large trainings like the SART Summit, and in-meeting presentations about military sexual violence and other topics expanded our knowledge. These topics are informative, powerful, and useful for team members in their various professional roles as they work with victims.



In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, thank you for all you do on behalf of victims in our state.

-Kathy Kimball and Kitty Kiefer

Hillsborough County - South

(1) In-meeting trainings on topics like new NH Supreme Court case law, rules of evidence, restraining orders, charging juveniles as adults and others have been good refreshers for SART members. (2) SART involvement has helped investigators walk through the criminal justice system process with victims. (3) A SART meeting addressing communication and interpretation for victims who are non-verbal was helpful. (4) Strong collaboration with local campus representatives addressing how the unique needs of student victims can be met by both campus and community response. (5) Involvement & collaboration with SANEs, CAC, and Disability Community agencies is positive and offers representatives the possibility of being experts at trial.

Statewide SART Accomplishments

(1) Creation and distribution of *A Booklet for New Hampshire Sexual Assault Survivors*, explaining the criminal justice process and giving information about survivors’ options and resources by county. (2) Co-sponsored statewide training opportunities for multi-disciplinary audiences including *Victims, Trauma, and You* (a two-part series) and the 2021 SART Summit, *Strangulation - A MDT Case Review from Scene to Courtroom*. (3) Continued to offer training to recruits at the police academy, local EMS and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in training on adult sexual assault and NH’s SART Program.



NH Campus Consortium

(1) With the release of the 2020 Title IX Regulations, the Consortium worked to analyze the new requirements and identify best practice available under the current regulatory framework. (2) Engaged with NH Department of Education, researchers, student activists and other stakeholders to implement a new NH statute, RSA 188-H, which includes requirements for a campus climate survey, collaboration with local crisis centers, coordination with local law enforcement, awareness, prevention, and training ensuring access to on- and off-campus services for survivors of sexual assault. The inaugural statewide climate survey was launched in Spring of 2022. (3) Provided multi-disciplinary training on campus response. (4) In-meeting trainings on programs such as the Victim Information and Notification Every Day (VINE) and the KNOW & TELL Programs.

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Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Updates

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- As part of the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting (SAFE-ITR) grant, NH’s sexual assault evidence kit tracking system will soon go live. SANE Nurses, Law Enforcement, and the NH State Police Forensic Lab will be updating kit location to ensure that all kits are being submitted to the lab, allowing victims to track the status of their own kit.
- Until then, please ensure that **ALL** kits, to include anonymous kits, are submitted to the NHSP Forensic Lab without delay. The only exception should be kits that need to be transferred to an out-of-state jurisdiction.



SAKI Reminders

- Law enforcement is responsible for updating the Lab when an anonymous victim comes forward and provides consent for their kit to be analyzed. The new 9000 series kits, which are just starting to be used in hospitals, are updated with a space to convert kits that were initially collected anonymously to kits with a reporting victim.
- Be familiar with RSA 21-M:18, Sexual Assault Survivors’ Rights.
- The SAKI website (sakitta.org) provides **free** training to enhance our response to sexual assault and provide justice for victims. Check out their “Learn” tab to find webinars, a virtual academy, and a toolkit. The SAKI virtual academy provides free training on cold case sexual assault investigation, prosecution, and victim notification.